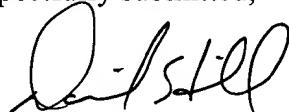


REMARKS

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in pending Claims 25-27, 30-33, 36, 37, 44, 45, and 48. To expedite prosecution of the allowable claims, Applicants have cancelled Claims 22-25, and 42-43, amended Claims 5 26, 32, 36-37, 44-48, and added new Claims 49-63 which depend from allowable Claims 26 and/or 44. Importantly, Applicants have not cancelled Claims 22-25, and 42-43 for any substantial reason related to patentability as discussed by the Supreme Court in *Fest Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 122 S. Ct. 1831 (2002), but rather for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution of the allowable claims. Applicants 10 respectfully reserve the right to prosecute any or all of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention represents a patentable contribution to the art and that Claims 26-27, 30-33, 36-37, and 44-63 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is accordingly 15 solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Hill
Reg. No. 46,170
Ward & Olivo
708 Third Avenue.
New York, New York 10017
212-697-6262

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